

The Episcopal Diocese of Tennessee

Resources for Creating a Narrative Budget

The Mission of the Episcopal Diocese of Tennessee is to encourage and to equip one another as the baptized people of God to witness to the reconciling and transforming power of Jesus Christ.

As part of our Diocesan Budgeting process, and in order that we can better understand the ministry being undertaken by the ministries and congregations requesting support, you're encouraged to submit a narrative budget along with your 2022 budget request and a proposed (traditionally formatted) 2022 budget.

If you have not crafted a narrative budget before, the following resources may be beneficial.

From the Episcopal Church Foundation's Vital Practices web site:

- Templates for creating a narrative budget:
<https://www.ecfvp.org/tools/169/narrative-budget-template>

Example of a graphical narrative budget, from the United Methodist Church:

- <https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/resources/building-a-narrative-budget>

In your efforts, focus on the **narrative** aspect of the narrative budget—we should already have your traditional 2022 budget or projected budget. There will be some things you don't need to expend energy writing about or sharing stories about (no matter how much you love your electrical utility). Instead, we're interested in accounts and **stories** of ministry: individual and corporate encounters with Jesus (has someone come to faith? Has a family been impacted? Has someone returned to the church after a long absence, have people had their hearts and imaginations taken captive by worship?), community engagement (service projects, community events participated in etc.), goals accomplished and so on.

Please mail or email your 2022 Budget Request forms, 2020 yearend financial statements, proposed 2022 budget, and narrative budget **by October 31, 2021**. If your 2022 proposed budget is not yet completed, please send a preliminary estimate.

Please make sure you are current in the submissions of your mission's 2021 monthly financial statements.

Please email your requests to sabington@edtn.org or mail them to:

Susan Abington, Finance Administrator
The Episcopal Diocese of Tennessee
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